



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
July 28, 2011

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Mayor Barrett issued the following statement regarding today's MTEA Executive Board Decision not to come to the bargaining table:

"I share Superintendent Thornton's disappointment with today's decision by the MTEA's Executive Committee that the union will not agree to come to the bargaining table and continue to negotiate pension contributions.

"We all know that decisions made in Madison have set the stage for today's actions.

"Today's fiscal realities have rolled down-hill and crashed into the front door of local units of government and school districts. As much as that reality hurts and, as much as that reality necessitates difficult decisions, we must not waiver on the principle that our children and the services we provide to them come first.

"MTEA leadership correctly stated that teachers are not responsible for the millions of dollars in state aid cuts or for the school choice funding flaws that have a direct and negative impact on Milwaukee.

"It is equally true however, that the children of Milwaukee are not responsible for the financial hardships facing Milwaukee Public Schools. Yet, the children are now the ones who will suffer.

"I strongly encourage the MTEA leadership to rethink their position and work with Superintendent Thornton."